

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-25 are pending in this application. Claims 1-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. patent 6,061,056 to Menard et al. (herein "Menard").

Addressing that rejection, applicants initially note independent claims 1, 3, and 17 are amended by the present response to make certain clarifications. Independent claim 1 now clarifies an operation to "respectively store the plural partial information with the added program feature data in the program database". Independent claim 1 now also clarifies an operation of "reading out the searched partial information from the database". Independent claim 3 also clarifies an operation of adding program data obtained "from a result of analysis made by the analyze section" or program feature data externally input "in units of the partial information to thereby store the plural partial information with the added program feature data". Independent claim 3 also clarifies "reading" the partial information from the first database. Independent claim 17 is also amended to clarify "reading" the partial information from the database. The claim amendments are believed to be clear from the original disclosure and thus are not deemed to raise any issues of new matter.

Applicants respectfully submit that Menard does not teach or suggest that a program database is formed by dividing multimedia information into plural partial information formed of a frame or frames, and respectively adding program feature data to the plural partial information to be stored with the plural partial information. The database of Menard does not store plural partial information with added program feature data. Menard also does not teach or suggest that partial information that accords with user profile data from a program database can be searched for based on matching between the user profile data and the program feature data, and further that the searched partial information is read from the database to provide the searched partial information to a user.

Menard merely teaches a database for storing data representing criteria and storing, when a program data stream matches the stored data, a program segment and a program data stream (see Menard at column 1, line 66 to column 2, line 18). Thus, Menard does not teach or suggest that a database stores plural partial information with added program feature data in a program database, in contrast to the claims.

The “Response to Arguments” section of the Office Action of April 1, 2004, appears to emphasize that Menard can record segments of programs when stored data matches program data. In that respect, as recognized in the Office Action, in Menard a comparator compares program data with stored data and an output device carries out predetermined action, for example recording a segment of the program, when the program data matches the stored data.¹

However, applicants submit that the above-noted comments in maintaining the outstanding rejection only emphasize differences between the claims and the teachings in Menard.

The claim are directed to a database search technique. In contrast, Menard is directed to a technique for selectively storing information. Menard simply does not teach or suggest formation of the program database as claimed, and particularly with respect to searching for plural partial information utilizing that formed program database. Menard also clearly does not teach or suggest storing plural partial information with added program feature data.

The comments noted above about Menard operating to compare program data with stored data are in fact counter to an operation in the claims of dividing multimedia information into plural partial information formed of a frame or frames, and respectively adding program feature data thereto to be stored with the plural partial information.

¹ See for example the comments in the Office Action of April 1, 2004, page 3, lines 5-7.

The claim amendments also clarify that the searched partial information is read from the database. That is clearly not the case in the device of Menard as in Menard the segment of the program is in fact stored in the database and is not read from the database. That operation in Menard is in fact explicitly recognized in the Office Action, which states that Menard records a segment of program when stored data matches program data.²

Further, independent claims 3 and 17 are believed to recite even further limitations neither taught nor suggested by Menard.

Each of independent claims 3 and 17 further recites an analyze section configured to analyze the multimedia information “using at least one analysis method of moving image analysis, acoustic/speech analysis, and text analysis”. The outstanding Office Action references Menard at col. 3, lines 27-65, and col. 6, lines 4-14, as meeting such limitations.³ However, applicants note that disclosure in Menard does not disclose such subject matter, i.e. Menard does not disclose at least one analysis method of moving image analysis, acoustic/speed analysis, and text analysis.

Further, with respect to claim 17, Menard also does not teach or suggest that an information reception apparatus includes a search engine configured to search for predetermined program feature data from a database and select partial information from the multimedia information stored in the database in accordance with searched program feature data.

Further, dependent claim 19 further distinguishes over the disclosure in Menard noted at col. 9, line 54, to col. 10, line 6. Such teachings in Menard merely teach a text display and synchronism with an input video and audio signal, and do not relate to an update of a user profile data based on a result of a search as recited in claim 19.

² Office Action of April 1, 2004, page 2, last line.

³ Office Action of April 1, 2004, page 6, first paragraph.

With respect to dependent claims 22-25, those claims even further distinguish over Menard. Those claims further recite “wherein each plural partial information includes a representative images of a respective multimedia information”. That subject matter is noted in the original specification for example at page 22, line 22 et seq. Menard does not teach or suggest any structure in which the plural partial information includes representative images of a respective multimedia information. With this structure recited in dependent claims 22-25, a user can view representative images of a respective multimedia information for a search operation. Menard does not teach or suggest such a feature.

With respect to dependent claims 22-25 the outstanding Office Action now appears to cite the teaching in Menard at column 9, lines 21-29.⁴ However, at column 9, lines 21-29 Menard does not provide any similar teaching of plural partial information stored in a database including represented images of respective multimedia information. The noted portion of Menard is directed to displaying video clips, but is not at all directed to storing in a database plural partial information that includes represented images of a respective multimedia information.

In such ways, the above-noted claims are believed to further distinguish over the teachings in Menard.

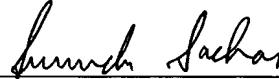
For the foregoing reasons, applicants respectfully submit that each of independent claims 1, 3, and 17, and the claims dependent therefrom, clearly distinguish over the teachings in Menard.

⁴ Office Action of April 1, 2004, page 7, last paragraph.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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